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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT		25X1
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. [redacted] August 1953, the Bucharest shops were stocked with goods so as to create an impression of plenty in the eyes of the visiting foreigners. Although all the shop windows displayed a variety and abundance of articles, it was obvious these articles were of little value and were attractive only from the standpoint of cheap prices.

[redacted] the government had declared a coming devaluation, so the Rumanian people had fearfully spent their last lei on poor quality objects. Therefore, the visitors enjoyed choice sales of objects which represented valuable limited items to the local inhabitants but which meant nothing to the visitors.

2. [redacted] remarked on the state of misery in existence there. A current rumor was that the Rumanian people had remained without sufficient food for three months before the occasion and would probably endure "hunger pains" an additional three months afterward. White bread was wrapped in silk paper and exposed in windows like a treasure, while earlier on the train trip to Bucharest women and children were observed begging for bread. People formed long queues outside meat stores,

[redacted] there was too much meat but too few meat stores. All the food was rationed, however. Some of the average prices quoted were as follows:

Dress - - - - -	800 - 1,000 lei	
Shoes - - - - -	150 - 200	
Shirt (poor quality) - - - - -	70 - 90	
Gloves - - - - -	25 - 50	
Swiss watch - - - - -	400 - 600	-(150 for visitors)
Czech motorcycle - - - - -	5,000	
Leather coat with lamb's wool lining - - - - -	1,400	
Nylon stockings - - - - -	80 - 240	
[redacted] beer (@ bottle) - - - - -	8	

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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3. A very anti-Semitic public opinion could be sensed in Rumania. Jews were persecuted, were refused employment and each month were summoned before the police to account for their means of living. [redacted]

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[redacted] Jews were given shop concessions of a year's duration in order to dispel appearances of discrimination. For the most part they specialized in shops of three or four types of activity, such as clock and watch repair and shoemaking, which were permitted to operate privately and without hired employees. These establishments were not allowed access to State merchandise and therefore contained poor goods. State-owned stores were more spacious and better stocked for the benefit of the foreigners. In one instance [redacted]

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[redacted] posed as a local inhabitant making a purchase and received very impolite treatment, but as a visitor was received with respect.

4.

[redacted]

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5. At one point, [redacted] met with a group of workers who were tarring some unfinished streets. Almost all the workers came from villages but were forced to work in the city also as they lacked sufficient means to live on one hectare of land. The order of that particular day was to spread eight tons of asphalt. The monthly salary of each worker was 290 lei and the foreman's was 450 lei, but the foreman [redacted] often worked 13, 14 and sometimes 16 hours a day to meet his quota 100 per cent and thereby earn a double salary. The workers could hardly live on their income, much less send part of it home to their wives who themselves held down some small job. The workers slept in shared rooms, paid their rent by the week and ate their noon meal costing 12 or 13 lei, at the canteen. In Ferentari, the workers' dwellings consisted on the average of one apartment of two rooms, hall, bath and kitchen for two families. The rent for a small apartment of one room with bath and kitchen came to 50 lei without central heating, or electricity and gas which cost 50 or 60 additional lei.

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